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### People and Place: Understanding the Processes, Outcomes and Impacts of Interventions of the Fairmount Corridor Initiative

Center for Social Policy, University of Massachusetts Boston

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# People and Place: Understanding the Processes, Outcomes and Impacts of Interventions of the Fairmount Corridor Initiative

## Summary/Abstract

Through a 5 year grant, the Center for Social Policy (CSP) serves as a strategic learning and evaluation partner to The Boston Foundation (TBF). TBF's investment and people and place-based initiatives seek to make sustainable, positive change through community and economic development in neighborhoods along the Fairmount-Indigo transit line in Boston. From 2010-2012, the Center team worked closely with Mattapan United and Millennium 10 (in Codman Square/Four Corners) to identify community priorities for neighborhood change. From 2013-2015, the Center team is evaluating these neighborhood change efforts, as well as other initiatives aimed at increasing economic well-being for neighborhood residents. The Center is also serving as a learning partner to TBF planners.

## Goals and Objectives

### Corridor Level Learning Plan Designed To:

- Inform next stages of TBF's investment and activities along Fairmount Corridor.
- Track TBF's contribution to transformative strategies and/or approaches that succeed in changing the life trajectories for low income children/families and their neighborhoods.

### Program Level Evaluation Strategies Designed To:

- Understand implementation of Boston LISC's Resilient Communities/Resilient Families and Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership's (MBHP) Family Self-Sufficiency (FSS) projects, including:
- procedural accomplishments/challenges
  - community building/family outcomes
  - role of neighborhood context

## Results/Impacts

### Center for Social Policy

1. Developed a conceptual, evidence-based alignment framework for use by TBF
2. Assisted two neighborhood organizing groups to generate and analyze information gathered from community residents; this evidence then informed their action priorities
3. Informed evaluation priorities for 2013-2015
4. Generated findings that led to a reexamination of program practices used by the Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership's Family Self-Sufficiency's program staff

**Neighborhoods Impacted:** Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan

Two students engaged 8-16 hours/week per semester



## Approaches and Methods

- ✓ Participatory evaluation action research
- ✓ Theory-driven, utilization-focused approach
- ✓ Using multiple methods

## Center for Social Policy Team

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## References and Resources

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## Partnerships

TBF's Boston Indicators Project  
Boston LISC  
Mattapan United  
Millennium 10  
Metropolitan Boston Housing Partnership